



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

William E. Phelps papers

Archives of American Art
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	William E. Phelps papers
Date:	1939-1979
Identifier:	AAA.phelwill
Creator:	Phelps, William E., 1897-1967 M. Knoedler & Co.
Extent:	0.2 Linear feet ((141 items on partial microfilm reel))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The donor, Mary C. Parrish, is the niece of William E. Phelps. She found these papers in the furniture she inherited from the estate.

Other Finding Aids

List of correspondents available in Archives of American Art offices.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reel 3589 available at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Microfilmed materials must be consulted on microfilm. Contact Reference Services for more information.

Biographical / Historical

Collector, art patron; Montchanin, Delaware. Resided in the Brandywine Valley between Wilmington, De. and Chadds Ford, Pa. where he and his wife, Mary, became friends with many local artists. He was an early patron of Andrew Wyeth and a close friend of the Wyeth family.

Scope and Contents

12 letters (2 are illustrated) from Andrew Wyeth to William E. Phelps; 6 letters from Wyeth's wife Betsy to Phelps and his wife Mary, 1939-1969; 8 letters to Andrew Wyeth and Phelps from friends and colleagues. Wyeth's letters were written from Chadds Ford, Pa. and Port Clyde, Cushing, and Thomaston, Me. and concern the business of borrowing paintings for exhibitions but also contain family news and some personal insights.

Scope and Contents

Also contains letters from Wyeth's dealer, E. Coe Kerr of M. Knoedler and Co., Inc. to Wyeth and receipts from sales of his paintings; 91 photographs of Andrew, Betsy, Henriette, N.C. Wyeth, Peter Hurd, and others at the Wyeths' house in Maine and the Hurds' house in New Mexico. Included are photographs of the Wyeths painting in their studios, an exhibition of the Phelps' collection; and clippings.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Names:

Hurd, Peter, 1904-1984
Kerr, E. Coe, 1914-1973
Wyeth, Andrew, 1917-2009
Wyeth, Betsy James, 1921-
Wyeth, Henriette, 1907-
Wyeth, N. C. (Newell Convers), 1882-1945

Occupations:

Painters